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NEW YORK TIMES  
14 June 1984

# Attack on Pastora: Much Intrigue but Few Facts

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Special to The New York Times

MEXICO CITY, June 13 — Two weeks after a bombing attack on Edén Pastora Gómez, an anti-Sandinista rebel leader, the Costa Rican authorities have established a key suspect — a man who, using a stolen Danish passport, traveled the region in recent months posing as a photographer.

That is nearly all they know.

The man's identity remains a mystery. His current whereabouts is unknown. For whom he was working, if anyone, at the time of the blast has not been determined. It is not known whether he acted alone or with the help of others.

The bomb, which went off at a crowded news conference in Nicaragua near the Costa Rican border, killed four people — three journalists and an anti-Sandinista rebel — and wounded more than two dozen other people, including Mr. Pastora. At the same time, it introduced a new and less predictable type of terrorism into the long-running conflict in Central America and sharply increased tension among and within the opposing factions.

The investigation has been hampered by false leads, conflicting political interests and the fact that the bombing took place in a rebel-controlled area that the Costa Ricans have no jurisdiction to enter and the Nicaraguans have no ability to enter. Various investigations and interested parties have concentrated on different possible motives for the attack, generally in line with their political orientation.

## A False Lead Is Abandoned

Costa Rican Government investigators spent days pursuing a lead that the mysterious photographer, who went by the name of Per Anker Hansen, was actually José Miguel Lujua Gorostiola, a member of the Basque separatist group E.T.A. While the two men bear some facial similarities, this lead was abandoned when the French authorities told Costa Rica that Mr. Lujua Gorostiola was under a form of house arrest in France and had not been out of the country in several months.

A Uruguayan exile in Sweden said Monday that he recognized the key suspect as a fellow Uruguayan with whom he engaged in leftist political activities in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The exile, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, said in a telephone interview that the man was now living in Venezuela. He said the man's name had been turned over to Interpol, the international police cooperative organization.

The motives for the bombing remain a matter of speculation. The explosion took place at a time of heavy pressure from the Central Intelligence Agency on the two major groups fighting the Sandinista Government — the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance based in Costa Rica and the Honduran-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force. The C.I.A. has sought to consolidate their forces, a move that Mr. Pastora strongly opposes unless the group based in Honduras expels some leaders who were in the national guard of Anastasio Somoza Debayle when he was Nicaragua's dictator. The bombing came as well at a time when the Nicaraguan Government appears to feel increasing pressure from armed and unarmed opponents.

## Pastora's View Wavers

Mr. Pastora has wavered between blaming the C.I.A., the Honduran-based rebels and the Sandinistas. "For several months, the C.I.A. has been preparing the ground, mounting a campaign against me, saying I am the only obstacle to unification with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force," he said shortly before being flown to Caracas for medical treatment. "This attack is punishment for not yielding."

United States officials have promoted the idea that the Sandinistas were to blame, possibly acting through the Basque separatist group. A State Department spokesman said today, however, that the United States had "no independent confirmation of who might be responsible." The idea has been strongly pursued by the Costa Rican Government with little result.

Ambassador Curtin Winsor Jr., speaking of the Sandinistas, said: "There's nobody else I can think of who would have the motive. The C.I.A. doesn't do this kind of thing."

Despite the initial failure to establish a link to E.T.A., Costa Rica is still looking for an E.T.A. role, according to an official involved in the investigation. "The E.T.A. was launched on the streets to cause confusion," he said of rumors about E.T.A. involvement, adding that it was his belief that as a result, the Costa Rican investigation "will come to nothing."

## Rebels Check 2 Possibilities

Meanwhile, investigators from the rebel group based in Costa Rica, which is known by its initials in Spanish as ARDE, are looking more closely at two possibilities. One is that the attack could have been the result of increased friction in its own ranks because the majority of its people are said to be willing to consolidate with the Honduran forces. The other possibility is that

the attack might have been an effort by the Honduran-based rebel group to eliminate Mr. Pastora and therefore the obstacles to consolidation.

For the Sandinistas, an ARDE investigator said, "the fact is that it is politically more convenient to have him alive and causing divisions." Of the C.I.A., he said, "It's not their style."

Little is known about the key suspect in the bombing.

The imposter had been in the region since at least February and perhaps since October, according to Costa Rican investigators, and had entered and left the country at least six times on trips to Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Mexico. He said he was representing a Paris-based photo agency called Europe 7, which does not appear to exist. He used the Danish passport of Per Anker Hansen, a young architect who later said his passport was stolen in a robbery about four years ago.

## Few Details on Imposter

In the month before the bombing, the imposter traveled with a Swedish journalist and television producer, Peter Torbjörnsson, who has been working on a documentary on Central America, and his Bolivian assistant, Luis Fernando Prado. According to Mr. Prado and Mr. Torbjörnsson, they met in early May at the Hotel Gran Via, a modern but somewhat rundown hotel in downtown San José, the capital of Costa Rica.

Mr. Prado, in an interview Saturday in San José's Hospital México, where he is recovering from wounds received in the blast, also mentioned that the supposed Danish journalist appeared to be familiar with Uruguay.

"We were talking one night about where would be the best place to be," he recalled. "I said the Obelisk in Buenos Aires at midnight. He said the Port of Montevideo at 10:30, or something like that."

## Camera Case Is Suspect

Mr. Prado said the supposed Dane spoke little Danish, a fact that both he and Mr. Torbjörnsson said struck them as odd only after press reports began linking the imposter to the bombing. He said they talked with the imposter mostly in English and that "his Spanish was forced," as if he was trying to disguise an accent. He also said that the imposter "knew idioms from a lot of places."

The three men made two trips together to rebel territory. The first was from May 17 to 22, according to Mr. Prado, when they visited rebel camps and tried without success to find Mr. Pastora. The second was on May 30, the

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